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LINK cards expand to Farmer's Markets

TARA KULASH
Daily Egyptian

The Friday Night Fair will soon be able to accept LINK cards, thanks to a federal grant.

The Illinois LINK card provides lower income families and the unemployed with money for food purchases. The card works similarly to a debit card and an individual can apply online to get the card.

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon announced Friday that 41 farmers' markets in Illinois will receive a federal grant of \$1,200 and a wireless Link card machine, with Carbondale Main Street's Friday Night Fair on the list.

The university will also do a study of the program by using monthly sales data and market surveys to measure the impact on overall sales at farmers' markets, according to a press release. The findings will be released by the end of 2013 or early 2014.

The Friday Night Fair is every Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Town Square Pavillion in Carbondale, and offers food vendors, crafts, live music and more.

Meghan Cole, executive director of Carbondale Main Street, said while she only applied for the grant a month ago, it had been in the talks for awhile.

"This was a need and something that could really help not only the fair but a lot of the community," she said.

Cole said the bus system doesn't run during the summer, so low-income families don't always have transportation to the farmers' market.

Those families can get their produce at the Friday Night Fair on Link cards now, as five farmers bring their produce to the fair every week.

The cards can be used on any kind of food item, even at the hot dog cart, she said, so the grant will be helping the fair's vendors as well.

Cole said she doesn't think the machine will be put to use until next year because there are still a lot of steps to go through — such as a training session she must attend in August — and this year's last fair is Sept. 21.

The machine, which is funded by and named after the Illinois Electronic Benefits Transfer Wireless Project, can be kept by the farmers' markets after Sept. 2013, but at that point the markets must absorb the wireless services.

Cole said she expects the fee to be small and easily absorbed by Carbondale Main Street.

While the Friday Night Fair got the grant, the Carbondale farmers' market didn't apply for it.

Ann Stahlheber, market manager for the farmers' market, said the market's board discussed the idea of the grant but decided to keep Link access on an individual basis for now, meaning some vendors at the market will carry their own card machines.

Stahlheber said the decision was made because the farmers' market does not have any outside funding and would not be able to hire someone to work the machine.

She said the vendors are still open to the idea of getting a machine for the market in the future, though.



LYNNETTE OOSTMEYER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Bill Bass, of Cobden, left, helps Morgan Bass, of Cobden, right, with a machine that accepts credit debit and LINK cards Saturday at the Carbondale Farmers' Market. Bass said he has been in the produce business since the 1970's and sells everything from tomatoes to beef. Kristy Treat, of Cobden, who works seasonally for Bass Farms, said offering the use of the LINK card at the stand gives people more variety in their food.

Jenna Tromburg, a 2012 SIU alumna, said she has had a LINK card for more than a year.

Tromburg found out about the card through friends who had it and said she usually receives about \$135 a month for groceries.

She said she thinks the machine will be beneficial at the Friday Night Fair, but isn't sure she would use it at

the farmers' market.

"I always wanted to go, but the hours were early in the morning and I was a college student so I typically slept in or was doing something else," she said.

Tromburg said having a LINK card machine at the farmers' market might have encouraged her to visit the market, though.

In order to be eligible for a LINK card machine, markets must have certification to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, more commonly known as food stamps, through the USDA Food and Nutrition service.

The funding comes from a \$4 million project by the USDA to encourage SNAP use nationwide.

Chick-fil-A remains on campus despite national scrutiny

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

After a comment made by the president of Chick-fil-A stating his belief of a traditional Christian marriage, there have been no active attempts to remove the fast food chain from the Student Center.

Since the restaurant chain's President Dan Cathy's interview about his stance on gay rights was published July 16, sales for the restaurant have not only plummeted but the company is no longer welcome in the cities of Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Boston.

According to a report from The New York Times, many college students from universities across the country have started petitions online to get the company booted from their campus. According to an article from advocate.com, some of the schools include University of Illinois, Ball State University, Wichita State University and University of Kansas.

Lori Stettler, assistant vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said while the university does not endorse the religious views of Chick-fil-A, it chooses to stay in

business with the restaurant because the quality of their products.

Stettler said even in light of all the negative publicity, nobody has actively asked for the restaurant to be taken off campus.

Hannah Wagner, a spokesperson for Chick-fil-A, said an official statement has been released and the company is not submitting any quotes or interviews right now.

Wednesday was Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day and advocates of the restaurant lined up all across the country to show their support for the company during these times.

In a report by the Los Angeles Times, lines were said to be "miles long" just to get into Chick-fil-A's across the country and people have coordinated meetups for the event. One event posted on the site meetup.com calls for people to show up and dine to "make a statement in favor of God".

However, on the website change.org, a website used to start petitions, 275 out of a 500 signatures have been given to the cause titled "Remove Hate!! Remove Chick-fil-A!!" The petition is for removal of Chick-fil-A from SIUC specifically.

The petition was started by Darcy

Dunphy, a senior studying human nutrition and dietetics and former president of Saluki Rainbow Network.

Jessica Miller, an SIU graduate student, commented on the site and said she is upset about funds from the campus going to a restaurant that donates to anti-gay organizations.

"We need to have a welcoming and open climate on our campus, and that means removing businesses that promote the hatred of some of our students — myself included," Miller said in a comment on the website.

Stettler said even if the school wanted to remove the business from campus they would lose a considerable amount of money because Chartwells, a company dedicated to dining hall or cafeteria services within schools or universities, owns the contracts to Chick-fil-A and the contract is still in effect for six more years.

She said if the school breaks the contract in any way, such as the removal of Chick-fil-A, the school would owe money back to Chartwells.

"Chartwells spent \$1.6 million renovating the food court area in the Student Center as part of the contract," Stettler said. "If we break that contract then we will end up owing them the

balance of that investment."

Scott Schackman, president of the Saluki Rainbow Network, said in an e-mail although the school has entered a contract it can work on a mutual agreement with Chartwells to end the contract early based on financial performance of any dining unit employed by the school.

He said if the school continues to do business with Chick-fil-A it could make current and potential students question the acceptance of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community by SIUC.

"It could be the deciding factor in accepting admission or continuing admission to the university. Our community stands for equal inclusion and acceptance of all peoples, not just GLBT, but Black, Asian, and Native American, just to name a few," Schackman said.

Wendy Weinhold, coordinator for the GLBT Resource Center, said although she doesn't agree with Cathy's position, she is grateful he displayed his views to the public.

"I'm glad he told people about Chick-fil-A's position because now I know not to spend my money there," Weinhold said.

Stettler said the choice to do business with them should ultimately be left up to patrons of the campus.

"Our students, faculty, staff and visitors to the university will continue to personally choose which business they patronize for reasons that are reflective of their personal values," Stettler said. "We believe that people in general vote with their pocketbooks."

Weinhold said people involved with gay rights have a history of activism and Chick-fil-A has given all of them a reason to keep the tradition going.

"LGBT has a long history of protest and activism so this is really an exciting opportunity to exercise those rights," Weinhold said.

Seth Lesemann, a junior from Havana studying cinema and photography, said workers in the Student Center and other chain locations shouldn't be punished.

"I don't agree with the way he thinks at all and I really think it's kind of ignorant, but at the same time us removing the restaurant from our Student Center is not going to keep him from thinking that way," Lesemann said. "All it's going to do is get a whole bunch of people fired and make them have to find a new job."

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Half of US counties now considered disaster areas

JIM SUHR
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Nearly 220 counties in a dozen drought-stricken states were added Wednesday to the U.S. government's list of natural disaster areas as the nation's agriculture chief unveiled new help for frustrated, cash-strapped farmers and ranchers grappling with extreme dryness and heat.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's addition of the 218 counties means that more than half of all U.S. counties — 1,584 in 32 states — have been designated primary disaster areas this growing season, the vast majority of them mired in a drought that's considered the worst in decades.

Counties in Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming were included in Wednesday's announcement. The USDA uses the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor to help decide which counties to deem disaster areas, which makes farmers and ranchers eligible for federal aid,

including low-interest emergency loans.

To help ease the burden on the nation's farms, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Thursday opened up 3.8 million acres of conservation land for ranchers to use for haying and grazing. Under that conservation program, farmers have been paid to take land out of production to ward against erosion and create wildlife habitat.

"The assistance announced today will help U.S. livestock producers dealing with climbing feed prices, critical shortages of hay and deteriorating pasturelands," Vilsack said.

Vilsack also said crop insurers have agreed to provide farmers facing cash-flow issues a penalty-free, 30-day grace period on premiums in 2012.

As of this week, nearly half of the nation's corn crop was rated poor to very poor, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. About 37 percent of the U.S. soybeans were lumped into that category, while nearly three-quarters of U.S. cattle acreage is in drought-affected areas, the

survey showed.

The potential financial fallout in the nation's midsection appears to be intensifying. The latest weekly Mid-America Business Conditions Index, released Wednesday, showed that the ongoing drought and global economic turmoil is hurting business in nine Midwest and Plains states, boosting worries about the prospect of another recession, according to the report.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the index, said the drought will hurt farm income while the strengthening dollar hinders exports, meaning two of the most important positive factors in the region's economy are being undermined.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Thursday's expansion of federal relief was welcomed in rain-starved states like Illinois, where the USDA's addition of 66 counties leaves just four of the state's 102 counties — Cook, DuPage, Kane and Will, all in the Chicago area — without the natural disaster classification.

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Gap in leases leave students inconvenienced

TIFFANY BLANCHETTE
Daily Egyptian

With numerous independent housing companies and apartment complexes in Carbondale, a disconnect between leases can force students to find storage space, moving trucks, reliable friends, vacant couches and, in some cases, transportation home.

For Yatameck Davis, a senior from Chicago studying social work, finding all of the above came in the middle of finals week and will cost two weeks of paychecks along with related costs.

Davis, who is moving from The Pointe at SIU to University Village, said her move has been a complete inconvenience.

To accommodate Tuesday's move-out deadline, Davis said she had to move out Monday in order to fulfill her work obligations and in turn, she said she was forced to sacrifice study time for her summer-school exam.

She said although complexes need time to complete maintenance, the gap can put a lot of stress on tenants.

Management of The Pointe at SIU declined to comment because of corporate policy. Home Rentals and The Reserve at Saluki Pointe also declined to comment.

Davis, who works as a traffic assistant for WSIU-TV, has also worked extra hours in order to get ahead so that her absence doesn't inconvenience the station as well.

Kevin Boucher, traffic manager

for WSIU-TV, said every summer student-workers face housing troubles.

"It's a struggle as an employer as well," Boucher said. "The work falls on the staff and can put more stress on students who have to take on extra duties and pick up shifts."

Boucher said it's also stressful for the students who manage their situation because they don't make the money they need to survive.

From financing a move and storage services to paying for transportation home, most scenarios can take a toll on a student's budget.

Davis said traveling home to Chicago is her only option because she doesn't want to inconvenience anyone else by sleeping on their couch for two weeks. She said the travel will cost her money for the train ticket as well as spending money while she has no income.

Students who also have work or summer classes, but no place to stay once their leases are up, are lucky enough to find a friend to stay with, Boucher said. However, he said many still have to find a way to move and a place for storage.

Evan Rice, customer service representative for U-Haul in Carbondale, said students can take advantage of moving vehicles, trailers, storage spaces and boxes to alleviate inconvenient leases.

But students need to make reservations in advance in order to ensure availability, he said.

"Sometimes there can be as



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Steve Farias, a doctoral student in speech communication from California, left, and Mike Selck, a senior from Kansas City, Mo. studying speech communication, help Benny Lemaster move Wednesday from his house on Pecan Street in Carbondale. Lemaster spent four days in a hotel last summer because his lease started after his orientation for school. This year, he is able to move between houses on the same day. Farias said he has been lucky when moving. "My landlord owns several properties and he is very willing to accommodate students who have gaps between their leases," Lemaster said.

many as 30 people in line asking for trucks and trailers, but at this time of year, we simply don't have them available at the last minute for more than a few hours," Rice said.

Rice said storage facilities near the university experience sold out storage space, which forces students to travel further and spend more money to transport their belongings.

Companies in college towns such as Carbondale benefit from student populations, Rice said, so a collaboration between housing companies would be more convenient for students.

Rice, who has also experienced similar lease inconveniences, said students just have to be resourceful and find good friends to help them out.

"I understand why the housing companies don't collaborate because essentially I'm taking my money somewhere else," Davis said. "But the bottom line is that I'm basically homeless."

Tiffany Blanchette can be reached at tblanchette@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.

Judge: Peterson murder trial in jeopardy



M. SPENCER GREEN | AP PHOTO

Henry and Marcia Savio, father and stepmother of Kathleen Savio enter the Will County Courthouse, Tuesday, July 31, 2012, in Joliet, Ill. for opening statements in former Bolingbrook police officer Drew Peterson's murder trial. Peterson is charged in the 2004 death of his third wife Kathleen Savio.

DON BABWIN
MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

JOLIET — A visibly angry judge said Wednesday he will consider declaring a mistrial at Drew Peterson's murder trial after a second major blunder by prosecutors in as many days, once again illustrating how the high-profile case has been beset by problems from the outset.

Judge Edward Burmila's blistering rebuke came after prosecutors' second witness suggested Peterson may have put a .38-caliber bullet in his driveway to intimidate him, which prompted Burmila to worry aloud in court whether the former police officer could get a fair trial.

The 58-year-old Peterson is charged with first-degree murder in 2004 death of his third wife,

40-year-old Kathleen Savio.

"What is the purpose of you trying to tell the juror that this man (Peterson) put a bullet on the driveway?" the judge said, his voice booming, after sending the jury out of the courtroom. "This is completely troubling ... it makes no sense whatsoever."

Later, before announcing he would only rule on a defense motion for a mistrial Thursday, Burmila added, "The testimony (prosecutors) presented was a low blow in this case."

It was the latest twist in a case plagued by problems for years — including a botched initial investigation that left prosecutors with no physical evidence and forced them to hang their case on hearsay evidence, which is typically barred.

The mistrial decision comes before prosecutors could even

present the most delicate of hearsay evidence: "From the grave" statements that Savio allegedly made to others about Peterson threatening to kill her well before her body was found in her bathtub.

Peterson's attorneys will surely challenge those statements, as well as some made by Peterson's fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, before she vanished in 2007. She also allegedly told friends and relatives that her husband said he could kill her and make it look like an accident.

But Burmila has ordered the prosecution to stay away from some of those hearsay statements, including a pastor's statement that Stacy Peterson told him Drew Peterson admitted he killed Savio. If the pastor says that on the stand, it would certainly prompt defense attorneys to ask for a mistrial.

Illinois employers can't ask for Facebook logins

JASON KEYSER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Seeking to guard the privacy rights of the social networking generation, Illinois is making it illegal for employers to ask job applicants for passwords to their online profiles.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed the law Wednesday at the Illinois Institute of Technology, where several students lamented that online snooping by bosses has caused

some to lose out on jobs and forced others to temporarily deactivate their online profiles.

Illinois is only the second state to have such a law on the books, and it leaves no exceptions — even for openings that require thorough background checks.

In their efforts to vet job applicants, some companies and government agencies have started asking for passwords to log in to a prospective employee's accounts on social media sites, such as

Facebook and Twitter. Civil liberties groups, social media users and others have criticized the practice as a serious invasion of privacy, likening it to handing over the keys to your house.

"Especially in times like this when there are not a lot of jobs, that puts a lot of pressure on you. It's hard to resist," said Pegah Shabehpour, a 22-year-old architecture student browsing the Internet at the ITT campus library.

"I've heard of some friends

deactivating their accounts when they are applying for jobs and once they get a job, reactivating them," she said, though she's never been asked for her passwords.

The governor said it was important to ensure privacy laws keep pace with technology.

"We're dealing with 21st-century issues," Quinn said. "... Privacy is a fundamental right. I believe that and I think we need to fight for that."

The law protects both current employees and prospective hires.

But the legislation, which takes effect Jan. 1, does not stop bosses from viewing information that isn't restricted by privacy settings on a website. Employers are also free to set workplace policies on the use of the Internet, social networking sites and email.

Penalties in any successful civil suit would start at between \$100 and \$300 and could end up costing employers more, said bill sponsor Rep. La Shawn Ford, a Chicago Democrat.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Winston beats heat

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

As a night of karaoke and dollar drink specials comes to an end, fuddled customers flock towards Winston's Bagel cart on a torrid Tuesday night.

Winston Mezo, originally of Herrin, may be the most popular insomniac in Carbondale. His persistence on East Grand Avenue through June and July's sweltering summer nights are admirable and his bagels are deliciously creative. For some, a trip to southern Illinois just isn't complete without a late night bite at Winston's.

"Winston's bagels are to Carbondale what the Arch is to St. Louis," said Derek DeFranco, a first year law student from St. Louis. "It's a staple. You just can't come to town for the first time and not have one."

DeFranco, like many of Winston's customers, filter in from the bars across the street. With sweat collecting on his brow and a half eaten bagel in hand, DeFranco said he's stood in line for a bagel in all types of weather.

"I've been out here and nearly froze to death and I've been out here and nearly had a heat stroke," he said. "It's just a good way to end a good night."

His twin brother, Dustin

"I haven't had too many problems out here and I don't plan on it. As long as I'm making bagels everybody seems to stay pretty happy."

— Winston Mezo
owner of Winston's Bagels

DeFranco, said he's in Carbondale during the summer visiting his brother. He said a visit to Carbondale just isn't the same without Winston's. As cars screeched out of the parking lot across the street and onto East Grand Avenue, he said the late night entertainment created by the bars are half the fun of getting a bagel.

"I like to sit down with my food and just take in the surroundings," he said. "When it's this late at night theres no telling what's going to happen out here."

Mezo said there aren't many things that surprise him these days. He proudly exclaimed that this isn't his first rodeo and since moving to his current location in the mid-1990's from Illinois Avenue, he said the heat and overenthusiastic patrons haven't gotten to him yet.

"I haven't had too many problems out here and I don't plan on it," he said. "As long as i'm



JESSICA TEZAK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jacob Anderson, right, a junior from Murphysboro studying psychology, waits for Winston Mezo, of Herrin, to prepare a bagel for him Tuesday on Grand Ave. in Carbondale. Mezo has been preparing bagels at his stand "Winston's Bagels" for college students for 29 years. Chase Sanert, of Springfield, made a stop to see Winston after the bar while in town to visit his friend. "It's always worth the trip," he said.

making bagels everybody seems to stay pretty happy."

In business since 1983, Mezo has gone from multiple carts around Carbondale to the single cart seen on most nights across the street from Pinch Penny Liquors. Despite this summer's record breaking heat, Mezo said business during the summer usually peps

up around midnight.

"Sunset Concert crowds usually make Thursday my busiest night during the summer," he said. "Not this summer though. Out here on Tuesday nights its hard to tell that school isn't going on."

Nearly 30 years sober, Mezo said he started making bagels with his friend as something to do after

he stopped drinking. Originally known as The Bagel Grill, Mezo said he bought out his friends share in '83, incorporated Winston's Bagels, hired an accountant, and the rest is history.

Caleb Motsinger can be reached at cmotsinger@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

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Fishers compete to lower carp population

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

Competitors in an upcoming carp fishing tournament won't have to abide by normal catch-and-release rules.

The inaugural Carp-A-Thon, will try to bring local fishermen together in a competitive format to take the intrusive species out of southern Illinois waterways. The tournament will also try to raise public awareness of the damages Asian carp can do to area creeks, rivers, lakes and ponds.

The event is hosted by Saint Andrew School in Murphysboro, the SIU chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Bowfishing Association of Southern Illinois.

Asian carp were originally introduced to the Midwest in an effort to help clean algae out of private ponds. Major flooding throughout the 1970's and 80's allowed them to spread into the Mississippi River, and now they are common throughout the Great Lakes.

Asian carp are a genuine nuisance, both to humans and the species in competition with the carp for habitat, said Jim Garvey, director of the Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center at SIU.

"The carp feed on similar food sources as other species, we have anecdotal evidence that certain species of fish have become less abundant," Garvey said. "Silver carp are jumpers. They hear a boat and jump out of the water, it's a real hazard to boaters."

Garvey said the fish can weigh between 10 and 30 pounds, and jump so easily and in such large numbers that when researchers need to study the species, one technique for catching them is to simply allow them to jump into a boat.

Researchers at SIU estimate more than 16 percent of the fish population in southern Illinois waterways are Asian carp, Garvey said.

Garvey said the Carp-A-Thon is a major positive for fishing in the area, and while he doesn't expect the number of pests pulled out of the waters to make a major impact, the event will increase awareness about the damages Asian carp can do, and make competitors feel as if they helped with the issue.

The event will run Aug. 10-11, and contestants are allowed to fish any river, creek, ditch or stream

“The carp feed on similar food sources as other species, we have anecdotal evidence that certain species of fish have become less abundant. Silver carp are jumpers. They hear a boat and jump out of the water, it's a real hazard to boaters.

— Jim Garvey
Director, Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center

within the Big Muddy waterway or the Mississippi waterway from the mouth of the Kaskaskia River to Cairo. There is a suggested donation of \$15 for adults and \$5 for children less than 16-years old.

Prizes will be awarded for total pounds of fish, biggest fish, biggest fish taken by device, net, bow or spear; biggest fish taken by bow or spear by a participant aged 13 or younger; biggest fish that jumped into a boat; and biggest fish caught in the air with a net. Prizes will be determined by the amount of donations received.

All Asian carp that are caught in the Carp-A-Thon will be taken to Leady's Feed Store in Murphysboro to be used for fertilizer.

John Leady, owner of Leady's, said he originally planned to grind the carcasses up for feed, but decided to use them for fertilizer because it was the easier option.

Any legal methods of fishing are allowed, including bow, line and net, gig, pole and spear, said Eric Giles, president of the Bowfishing Association of Southern Illinois in a press release.

While the Carp-A-Thon is an event for entertainment purposes, Garvey said he hopes participants keeps potential dangers in mind, not only in the tournament but anytime they are on the water.

"There have been reports of people on jet skis getting smacked in the face and knocked off, people have had their jaw broken. It's only a matter of time before someone gets killed," he said. "It will be a freak accident, but one life is too many."

Ben Conrady can be reached at bconrady@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

From swimming to scoring



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

SIU sophomore swimmer Isabella Castro (far right) watches a race Sunday during the Ozark Long Course Championship at the Edward J. Shea Natatorium. Castro, along with other members of the SIU swimming and diving team, helped with the official scoring of the event. Castro was a First-Team All-MVC selection and set an MVC Championship record in the 200-yard butterfly during the spring 2012 semester.

Men's basketball signs power forward

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

SIU Men's Basketball coach Barry Hinson officially announced the signing of his fourth recruit, forward Bola Olaniyan, Wednesday.

The 6-foot-8 Olaniyan comes from Richmond High School in Richmond, Ind., where he averaged 14.6 points and 11.6 rebounds per game last year. Olaniyan, 19, came to the United States two years ago from Nigeria.

He was a late academic qualifier because he still had classes he needed to take at Richmond, so he wasn't able to commit to a program until this summer. He will be a freshman with four years of eligibility.

Hinson said in a press release that Olaniyan started to play basketball when he was 15-years-old and has the opportunity to be a special player for SIU.

"To see what he's accomplished in such a short timeframe is

remarkable," Hinson said. "He's filled with untapped potential."

Hinson has one scholarship available for next season, and he could still use that for recruit Chase Heins, who was officially signed July 25. Media Services Director Tom Weber said Hinson hasn't decided if Heins will be on scholarship or a walk-on.

Joe Ragusa can be reached at jragusa@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 256